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the ten per cent who would on the average be interested enough to answer the advertisement. Further, there is the difficulty of any person's telling experimentally just what his actions will be.

Die Abwehrfermente Abderhalden's in der Psychiatrie. By F. SIOLI. *Archiv für Psychiatrie*, 55, 1915. pp. 241-271.

A comprehensive digest of the literature is presented, and the author appends some comparative observations, using an organ in different stages of disease. There were 15 cases altogether, of whom 10 were senile dementes. The author concludes from the literature as well as from his own observations that the results from the Abderhalden and allied methods are not yet sufficiently clear to be used for purposes of diagnosis and prognosis or pathogenetic theory.

F. L. W.

Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, Volume XXVIII
Glasgow University Press, 1915.

The twenty-eighth volume of the Society for Psychical Research (1915) devotes its 657 pages to a "Study of the Psychology of Mrs. Piper's Trance," by Mrs. Henry Sidgwick. According to a list printed at the beginning this brings the total number of pages published by the Society on Mrs. Piper to 2812, the first one coming out in 1890, and yet so dubious is the outcome that Mrs. Sidgwick concludes: "To sum up very briefly my own conclusion about Mrs. Piper's trance, I think it is probably a state of self-induced hypnosis in which her hypnotic self personates different characters either consciously and deliberately, or unconsciously and believing herself to be the person she represents, and sometimes probably in a state of consciousness intermediate between the two. In the trance state her normal powers transcend in some directions those of her ordinary waking self, as is often the case in hypnosis. And further—what makes her case of great importance—she can obtain, imperfectly and for the most part fragmentarily, telepathic impressions. . . . It seems to me impossible at present to prove any theory on the subject." But at the beginning, Mrs. Sidgwick expresses herself thus in capitals (p. 6): "To prevent misapprehension, I am anxious to say emphatically at the very beginning of my discussion that I have no doubt whatever that knowledge is often exhibited in the course of Mrs. Piper's trance utterances which can only have reached her by some supernormal means—by which I mean otherwise than through the ordinary channels of sense," and she inclines to believe that this includes not only telepathy from the living but from the dead. Again, she recognizes that the "communicators" cannot be taken at their face value. "All these points being taken into account, grave doubts are thrown on the genuineness at any time of the dramatic presentation of the communicator. Veridical communications are received, some of which, there is good reason to believe, come from the dead and therefore imply a genuine communicator in the background. But the dramatisation of even genuine communicators, with the whole dramatic machinery employed, is probably merely dreamlike."

If such a wavering stand is the outcome of over thirty years of work, by various individuals, who were from the beginning at least sympathetic with the spiritistic hypothesis, on the "medium" who is generally admitted to give the best returns with the least suspicion of deception, what is the probability of spirit communication?

AMY E. TANNER.